



Governor Terry E. Branstad  
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds  
San Wong, Director

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL IOWA TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

Mission: Promoting innovative female responsive techniques through education and advocacy

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

Jesse Parker Building  
510 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Grant Room  
Des Moines, Iowa  
**February 5, 2016**

**Present:** Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair; Ashley Artzer; Linda Bisgaard; Kristen Corey; Andrea Dickerson; Julie Hibben

**Staff:** Steve Michael; Dave Kuker; Kathy Nesteby; Julie Rinker

- **Introductions/Announcements**

Jennifer Tibbetts, Chair, welcomed those in attendance at 2:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

- **Review of minutes – November meeting**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

- **Iowa Girls Justice Initiative**

- New data report

Kathy Nesteby referred to the data report, "Status of Females in the Juvenile Justice System", dated January 2016. The report has been shared with the Chief JCO's and was reviewed at the Iowa Girls Justice Initiative (IGJI) meeting held just prior to this meeting. Nesteby asked for thoughts on other ways to use or share the information.

Suggestions included:

- Post the report on the website.
- Include an executive summary within the report
- Compile the information into a data brief.
- Share the report with other targeted groups (JJAC/DMC) and individuals who have provided technical assistance in the past.
- Distribute the data brief or executive summary on DHR day on March 2-3

**Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning**

- Legislators

- **Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Update**

- Position paper update

Nestebly noted the position paper on the quality and level of care for high-risk girls in the juvenile justice system. The paper was last updated in December, 2014, after the closure of the Iowa Juvenile Home. She suggested updating the paper to include data from the report discussed earlier.

There was consensus to update this position paper and include concerns regarding the current environment and the updated data.

- **DMC Committee Update**

Dave Kuker reviewed a handout entitled “A Blueprint for Youth Justice Reform” from the Youth Transition Funders Group. The handout listed ten principles for successful juvenile justice reform. Kuker noted how the juvenile reentry plan includes these principles while tying together DMC and gender-equity to improve outcomes for youth in juvenile justice system.

Kuker also reviewed a CJPJ report, “Update Regarding DMC Progress of Iowa Communities”. Most success has been experienced at the local level. The focus has been on metro areas where the majority of kids of color reside. Meetings have been held with advocates and delinquency system officials in nine metro communities. A community planning event will be held in June. An update to the CASP (Community and Strategic Planning) Report is due August 1.

Kuker suggested that the DMC Committee and the Task Force work together toward system reform, using the concepts of the ‘Blueprint’ for a state-level plan. Tibbetts and Nestebly discussed the ‘Gender Injustice’ report and thought a plan should be a blend of both—minority and gender concerns.

- **Progress and Planning for Goal and Objectives**

Steve Michael reported on the Governors Workgroup on Criminal Justice Policy Reform (GWG), a group seated last fall to address criminal justice issues. The JJAC sent a letter supporting the confidentiality of juvenile arrest and juvenile court records in delinquency proceedings. The GWG agreed and made the confidentiality of juvenile records one of their four recommendations. Senator Dvorsky introduced SF2070 in support of this. Staff will continue to monitor the legislation.

Other proposed legislation includes:

- a Senate study bill introduced by the State Public Defender to require representation for juveniles trying to seal their records, and
- several bills regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention for those who aren’t proficient in reading. A letter

was sent by the JJAC to legislators to support rescinding this language in the Iowa Code. The Council wants more efforts by schools to educate kids in reading prior to their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade year, rather than holding them back.

- **Other Business**

There was no other business.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning  
Iowa Department of Human Rights